AQUA COMICS

吸血鬼の肖像

ヴァンパイア

VAMPIRE'S PORTRAIT

Aqua シリーズ

楠本弘樹

HIROKI KUSUMOTO

吸血鬼の肖像
楠本弘樹

オークラ出版

「HELP ME PAINT A PORTRAIT OF MY TRUE FACE!」

DEMANDED A MAN NAMED ZAIN, AS HE APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE PAINTER, LU, ON A STREET CORNER.

LIVING TOGETHER AS A PATRON AND AN ARTIST, LU DISCOVERS THAT ZAIN IS ACTUALLY A VAMPIRE.

AFTER GETTING TO KNOW HIM, LU BEGAN TO HOPE THAT ZAIN WOULD DRINK ONLY HIS BLOOD, AND NO OTHER'S.

* THE POPULAR SERIES, INCLUDING MORE THAN 100 NEW ILLUSTRATIONS, FINALLY COMPILED

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ALTHOUGH
THIS IS MY WORKPLACE
USE IT AS YOUR STUDIO
WORKPLACE...?
I'M A COMPOSER
AH...
ZAIN-SAN.
I KNOW HOW TO PLAY A BIT OF PIANO!

I USED TO WATCH MY GRANDPA PLAY
HERE!
I ALWAYS BRING IT WITH ME... ALTHOUGH IT IS OLD
rustle
Adore
MY GRANDPA'S FAVORITE PERFORMANCE!
...
ZAIN-SAN...?
turn

What a bother...
...LU.
BE QUIET
HURRY UP AND START WORKING!
THE VERY FIRST TIME I MET HIM, HE WAS ALREADY LIKE THIS
A PERSON WITHOUT FEELINGS...
OKAY
AH...
HE REALLY IS

YOU'RE A PORTRAIT PAINTER?
AT THAT MOMENT, I WAS DEEPLY ATTRACTED TO
I'LL GIVE YOU A PLACE TO STAY AND WHATEVER PAYMENT YOU WANT...
HELP ME...
HOW ABOUT IT?
HIS STRONG PRESENCE...
PAINT MY TRUE FACE
AND HIS EYES...

!!
RIIIIPP
WHAT
WH
AT
I DON'T LIKE IT
START OVER
DROP

WHAT?
WANT TO COMPLAIN? THEN SPIT IT OUT.
BUT
BUT, I...
...!
WAS...
THAT...
EH...
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK.
DON'T FORGET I AM YOUR PATRON.

SUDDENLY DESTROYING THE PAINTING,
THAT WAS SIMPLY TOO MUCH !
BUT IT'S TRUE.
IF THE PATRON DOESN'T LIKE IT, THE CONTRACT CANNOT BE FULFILLED
I UNDERSTAND
clatter
THERE S NO CHOICE
I'LL HAVE TO START AGAIN
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
LU

HOW IS IT, THIS TIME?
clatter
swish
!!
WAIT... WAIT A MINUTE!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED YET!
GRAB
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
HANDS OFF...!
NO...
STAB

OW..!
WAH... IT'S BLEEDING..
clatter
Drip
Drip
ba-thump
DON'T DON'T WORRY..
IT'S NOT THAT..
!

Lick
BAD.
AH.
WHY IS HE...
Lick
Lick
ba-thump
Haa...
Haa...
Lick
Haa...
Lick
Haa...
Lick
Haa...
Lick
ZAIN-SAN...!?
SLUP

GRAB
!!
WHA...!?

AH
gasp
UN
STRETCH
Haa...
BITE
SHUT
SCATTER
AH..!

!
push
ZAIN...
SAN...
AHHH...
UGH...
WHY
WHY...
YOUR
REFLECTION...
IT'S NOT
SHOWING...?

dash
FALL
touch
COULD HE BE...
WHY WHY...
rustle
THAT KIND OF CREATURE REALLY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...
A VAMPIRE...!?
shock

GRAB
Adore
THIS IS.
THE SAME MUSIC AS MY CASSETTE?
Adore
1999 remake
HAND-WRITTEN SHEET MUSIC!
ZAIN HAYLES. 1945?
DATED SIXTY YEARS AGO...
scramble
WHERE'S THE SIGNATURE?
AH...
FOUND IT! THIS IS IT!

ZAIN-SAN...
REALLY IS A
IF HE IS A VAMPIRE...
PAINT MY TRUE FACE
IF HE'S UNABLE TO SEE HIS OWN IMAGE...
THE TRUE REASON BEHIND THE STRANGE REQUEST...
WAS TO SEEK HELP FROM ME?

MAYBE I'M MISTAKEN
HOWEVER THE WAY HE REACTED TO MY PAINTINGS WAS TROUBLESOME...
creak
IN ORDER TO CONFIRM THIS...
...!
WHY DIDN'T YOU FLEE?
I...!

ZAIN-SAN, I...
HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO CONFIRM, NO MATTER WHAT
CONFIRM?
YEAH!
BECAUSE OF THAT...
I WILL DEFINITELY COMPLETE YOUR PORTRAIT...
...
IS THAT OKAY?

YEAH.
JUST AS I WISH.
?
AH... OH YEAH!
IF you've bitten me...
COULD IT BE...
THAT I HAVE TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE AS WELL?

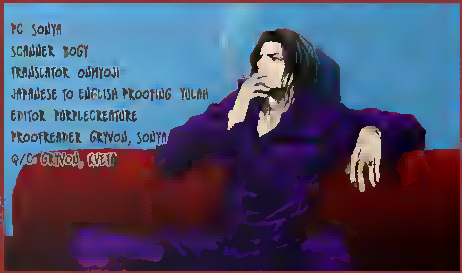
IT'S YOUR CHOICE
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU LEAVE AFTER SEEING MY TRUE NATURE.

AND THAT MEANS MAKING LOVE, RIGHT?
BUT A HUGE INTAKE OF MY BODILY FLUIDS WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY.
IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE
AH!
Yeah, right?
ER...
RIGHT?
UMM.
Huh?
HUH? IS THAT IT?
TOO... TOO NOISY!
HURRY UP AND PAINT!
END

Kyuuketsuka no Shouzou

by Hyde Kyusumoto

BIBLO FROS



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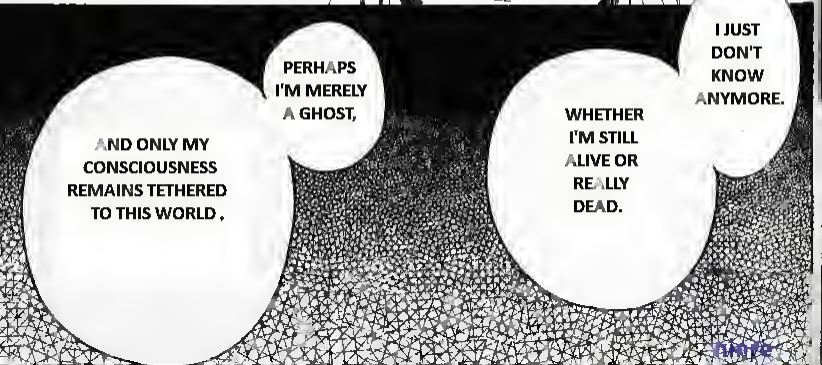
の
Contract of blood
契約
血的契约

ONE WINTER 'S DAY...
...A MAN..
SUDDENLY APPEARED.
I WANT YOU...
...TO DRAW MY TRUE FACE.
WITH THOSE STRANGE WORDS...
...HE BECAME MY PATRON.
THEN,
IN A SUDDEN FLASH...
I CAME TO KNOW WHAT HE TRUELY IS.

I CAN NO LONGER REMEMBER WHAT I LOOKED LIKE, SO IT'S THE SAME THING.
EVEN BEFORE THAT TOO MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED.
NO.
NOT SINCE I BECAME WHAT I AM...
MR. SEIN...

JUST HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU WATCHED FLOW PAST YOU...?


AND ONLY MY CONSCIOUSNESS REMAINS TETHERED TO THIS WORLD.
PERHAPS I'M MERELY A GHOST,
WHETHER I'M STILL ALIVE OR REALLY DEAD.
I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

...OF CONFIRMING WHETHER THEY ARE TRUELY MY LIKENESS OR NOT.
I HAVE NO WAY...
YOUR DRAWINGS, LOU...
"A VAMPIRE CASTS NO REFLECTION"
...

...HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN YOUR OWN FACE?
NOT EVEN ONCE?
MR. SEIN...

HA...
HA...
AFTER WHAT I OIO TO YOU...IT'S A WONOER YOU CAN STILL SAY SUCH A THING.

I'M OFTEN TOLO THAT!
I WASN'T COMPLIMEN -TING YOU... COULD IT BE YOU REALLY ARE STUPID?
YES!
...OR MUCH TOO KINO.
YOU'RE EITHER EXTREMELY STUPIO...

...IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANTEO A WAY TO CONFIRM YOUR EXISTENCE, RIGHT?
THE REASON YOU COMMISSIONEO A PORTRAIT FROM ME ...
MR. SEIN...

...I'M SUOOENLY ASSAILEO BY A TREMENOOUS SENSE OF ANXIETY...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS...
SIR...
...I WILL ORAW AS MANY OF THEM AS IT TAKES!
UNTIL THERE IS FINALLY A PORTRAIT YOU APPROVE OF...

H...HUH?
HUSH...
しーん...
.....
M...MAY I BORROW YOUR PIANO?
UM...!
SURE.
H...HUH?
CHUCKLE
CLICK
CLICK
.....
「Adore」
.....
MY GRANDFATHER OFTEN PLAYED THIS TUNE...
...SO I LEARN HOW TO PLAY IT BY WATCHING HIM.

BUT THE WAY YOU VE BEEN DOING THAT UNTIL NOW...
...IS BY COMPOSING MUSIC RIGHT?
.....!
!
.....
I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT TOO SURE.
NO! I'M SURE OF IT!
IF IT WEREN'T TRUE...
...YOU COULD NEVER HAVE WRITTEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL TUNE AS THIS...
CLICK
RAMMAGE
HONESTLY

「Adore」...
...THIS TUNE IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYED BY TWO PEOPLE.

UH...
YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD.
URK...!
LOU...

YES...THAT'S RIGHT, JUST LIKE THAT.
IT'S OKAY. JUST KEEP PLAYING
!

MR. SEIN...
I STILL FEEL HIS WARMTH ON MY BACK.
...THEY STILL LINGER WITHIN ME...
THE PLEASANT SOUND OF THE PIANO...
HIS HEART-BEAT...
NINRE

TWO PEOPLE...
THE OTHEOR PERSON MR. SEIN WROTE THIS PIECE TO PLAY WITH, I WONDER WHO IT WAS...?
UM...
I'LL BE OUT FOR A MINUTE.
...I HAVE A GUEST.
BUZZZZ
?
BUZZZZ
FLAP...

D...
MR. SEIN?!
DON'T LOOK...!
THUD...!
AGGH...!
GHH...
BECAUSE THE TITLE "ADORE"...
HIS LOVER?
BAM
JUMP!
GH...
I WONDER...
...WHO FELT THIS SAME WARMTH 60 YEARS AGO?

...BUT YOU REJECT MY BLOOO? ARE YOU TRYING TO INSULT ME?
NOT ONLY THAT...
KOFF...
K...
YANK.
I'O LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WH-...
AOAM...
...LOU ISN'T LIKE THAT...!
THIS IS QUITE A MANGY LITTLE PUP YOU'VE PICKEO UP,
SEIN.
GASP

AH...HA...
I KNEW IT.
MR. SEIN!
!?
YOU HAVE BEEN ORINKING SOMEONE'S ELSE BLOOO BESIOES MINE!

FUCK
DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T DIE.
IN TIME...
...HE'LL THIRST FOR YOUR BLOOD AGAIN...
GRR!
LIKE THE MONSTER THAT HE IS.
...!!

HOW IDIOTIC!
WELL, I'M DONE HERE. I'LL BE GOING NOW.
HEH!
MR. SEIN!
UGH...!
W-...
MR. SEIN- WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH HIM...?!
PLEASE WAIT!
HMPH.
THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR BREAKING "CONTRACT" WITH ME.
JUST LEAVE HIM.
"CON-TRACT" ...?

MR. SEIN...!
...LOU!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
Y...YOU'RE HORRIBLE...!
ADAM...
YES, I KNOW.
THE THIRD WHEEL IS LEAVING.
SEE YOU LATER,
SEIN.

WHACK!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT!
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW MUCH PAIN HE'S IN?!
...WHAT A SURPRISE...
AND HERE I THOUGHT GOODY-TWO-SHOES WERE EXTINCT BY NOW!
OUCH...

ninre

NO, YOU'RE WRONG.
...ISN'T HE YOUR ENEMY...?
BUT...
ADAM IS JUST ENJOYING HIMSELF.
HE WAS SO HORRIBLE TO YOU...!
HE PURPOSELY DELAYS GIVING ME HIS BLOOD SO THAT HE CAN AMUSE HIMSELF WITH MY GLUTTONY WHEN I FEED.
BUT YESTERDAY, I'D...
IS THAT WHY YOU STUBBORNLY FORCED YOURSELF TO DRINK HIS BLOOD, ANYWAY?
.....
SO HE BECAME SUSPICIOUS WHEN YOU WEREN'T AS THIRSTY AS USUAL, HUH?
YOU DRANK SOME OF MY BLOOD...

WHAT CAUSED THAT REACTION...?
BUT...
...YES.
...DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
HA...
IT SEEMS YOUR BLOOD AND ADAM'S AREN'T "COMPATIBLE".
IT'S THANKS TO HIM THAT I AM ABLE TO LIVE AS PEACEFULLY AS I DO.
ADAM AND I GO WAY BACK.
NO WAY-!
...IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS BLOOD AS PAYMENT.
...IS THAT I COMPOSE MUSIC FOR HIM...
MY "CONTRACT"...

IT'S THE SAME...
...IT WAS CONFIRMED ONCE I TASTED YOUR BLOOD.
MY GRANDFATHER...?!
...THE SAME SWEETNESS AS CLAUDE'S.
I DOUBTED MY EYES, BUT...
ON THAT STREET CORNER...WHEN I SPOTTEO YOU, YOU WERE CLAUOE'S LIVING IMAGE.

BUT-
SS...!
THAT STRAIGHT-FORWARO NATURE OF YOURS...
IT MAKES ME SOUNO LIKE A FOOL.
...YOU OON'T HAVE TO BE SO STRAIGHT -FORWARO.
...IT'S EXACTLY LIKE "CLAUDE'S".
CLAUDE...?

『Adore』- TO WORSHIP-
...YES...
HORNOR- ADMIRE-
-LOVE-
IN THAT INSTANT...
...I UNDERSTODD EVERYTHING.
HUG...
LOU...
MAY I HAVE...JUST A LITTLE...?
『Adore』MR. SEIN HAD CDMPDSED IT FDR MY GRANDFATHER.

掃描組

I STILL WANT TO REMAIN BY HIS SIDE...

I KNOW I'M NOT THE ONE HE'S SENSING.
I KNOW I'M NOT THE ONE HE LOVES
不是他愛的人
AND YET-
I-

"COMPATIBILITY" REALLY ISN'T THE ISSUE.
ANY TIME I DRINK FROM MULTIPLE PEOPLE DURING A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, MY BODY REACTS NEGATIVELY AND GOES INTO REJECTION.
OH, THEN...
IF ENOUGH TIME PASSES, YOU'LL BE OKAY TO DRINK MR. ADAM'S BLOOD AGAIN...?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
OH...I SEE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK DISAPPOINTED.
HUH?!

COME TO THINK OF IT...
...YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING EARLIER ABOUT COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN BLOOD...?
OH, THAT. THAT WAS JUST A JOKE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER, ANY HUMAN'S BLOOD WILL DO.
A JOKE...?
SKREE...

I'M NOT THINKING THAT I WANT YOU TO DRINK ANYBODY ELSE'S BLOOD BUT MINE...
IT'S NOT-
N...NO, IT'S JUST-?
I'M NOT THINKING THAT AT ALL- REALLY!
SO WHAT IS IT, THEN?
EM...!
END

It's been worth the long wait.
吸血鬼の肖像
That "puppy" of your will make an excellent sacrifice.
Sacrifice...?
Yes...
...For the ritual to bring out your "true self"!
ninre

吸血鬼の肖像
吸血鬼的肖像
Now, let us begin...
...My little brother.

Have you found it yet?
Hurry or the snow will melt, Grandpa.
CLATTER
Hold on!
I'm sure I put it back here with the sled...
CLUNK...
Hey...
...Grand-pa...
Oh! I found it, Lou!
Who's this?

He...
Ah...
..is "GOD".
But...
...I can't really tell what his face looks like.
You're great on the piano, hut your painting skills are only so-so, Grandpa.
はは
Ha Ha Ha
You sure are harsh, Lou.
Zing!
...I wasn't able to finish drawing "Him" accurately from memory alone...
You see...
.....

FLAP
MRGN
MRGN
You...
...must paint your own GOO, Lou.
.....
Nope!
Ohh! Hey!
Then, can I finish painting the rest?
My own GOD...?
One day you'll understand.
I'm sure of it.
...Could it be...
ninre

...That the model for that painting was...
Wow...he got such long legs...
...and he sure is sexy when his eyes are closed.
Come to think of it,
there's a sculpture that resembles him in this pose.

He's the very image of the suffering Christ
Michelangleo's "Pieta"...
"My own GOD", eh...?
One day, I'd like to use a huge canvas to paint a picture of Mr. Sein...
An even bigger canvas than my Grand-father's painting ...
MUMBLE
ボソ
I won-der...
...if Mr. Sein will let me?
.....ん.....
...MM..

Huh?!
Y...you were awake?!
What are you talking about?
...Yes.
It looks like you're almost finished.
I... see.
?
It's fine.
How is it?

Well...
Why do you look sad when I've just given you a compliment?
You're a strange one.
Once I complete this painting...
...My job will be over.
Didn't you say you'd keep painting until I was satisfied?
!!
Yes, and I meant it too...!
I know.
But I have no intention of binding you to your word.
You may do as you like.
.....

I...
!
...want to keep painting some more!
!
I want to keep painting you...
I want to stay by your side forever.
I don't want to leave you all alone...
!
You're my ideal model, Mr. Sein.
Ideal...?
うーん...
Hmmm...
Do I really have such an amusing face...?
No! No! That's not the reason...
N-...

You see...
...There's a painting I'd like to do in the near future.
!...
But that's all I'm going to say for now.
Hmm... so in other words...
...If I agree to act as your model, I'll eventually find out what it is that you want to paint.
Blush
At least tell me what kind of painting.
No!!!
It's too embarrassing!
I could never tell him...
...That he's "My God"...!
Fine, I'll go along with it.
!!
But, it's not a...
Nude painting, is it?
Huh?
Uh...
Well...
It is, isn't it?
Actually...

Mr Sein
.....
Thump...
Oh, well... I guess it's okay..
...And yet...
He always seems a little sad...
So proud...
...And beauti-ful...
But...
He's my...

Don't you get tired of painting all the time?
Huh?!
No, not really.
I mean, you've practically been imprisoned in here.
Let's see...
...A change of pace might be good.
?

I couldn't live in Paris ...
...if I have to avoid sunlight and crosses.
Are you sure... you're fine?
Um...so where are we going?
!!
You can eat real food?
I'll treat you to a delicious meal.
...I said I'd treat you a meal.
I knew it...
According to Adam, fish dishes are the-
Lou?
.....
He's going out of his way to he considerate.

It's really delicious!
.....
!
Chomp!
Munch
Munch
!!!
No, I really don't get it.
Is that really all you want?
Yes!
It's not as if I can't eat at all but...
Cheep...
Eventually, I just got bored of eating altogether.
...You see...
No matter what I eat, everything tastes the same.
Scatter

Flutter...
Um...
It's thirst that I feel.
!
You don't feel hunger?
It feels good just sitting here like this.
Mr. Sein...
But, I'm fine right now.

I wonder...
...Is he really feeling no thirst...?
He hasn't fed for 3 whole days now.
Whoa...?! Out here...?!
SLIDE...
Yikes...
I wonder what they think of us...?
GAWK
Y...Yes?
Hey, Lou...?
!
CLONK...
I'm...
...starting to feel a little sleepy.
SST...

本格的に絵を描くなら
If you're really going to start painting in earnest...
ドキ
Ba-Bump
ドキ
Ba-Bump
Do that...
...Okay?
Um...
By that, do you mean -
...You should bring over enough of your things to live with me for a while
ZZZ...
ぐっ
ら
せ
る

Ohh!
He just...
...fell asleep without even waiting for my answer!
ZZZ.
Cheep.
CHIRP
Ba-Bump.
Huff
Look
Look

ドキ
Ba-Bump...
サインさん
Mr. Sain...
ドキ
Ba-Bump...
これが
僕の
This...
返事です
...is my
anwser.
WHSH...
……

Creak..
FLAP
...
Grandpa
...
...I'm going to paint my own picture.
Not from memory
...

Oh...
...I'm a little early.
He might still be asleep...
...But with him as my actual model!
The piano...!
Mr. Sein~
KCHAK!

!?
Ah!
Good morning.
...Where is Mr. Sein...?
But last night...
It's not unusual for him to go wandering off.
Beat me.

...He came to me...
...And asked me to look after you.
Look after me...?
He asked Mr. Adam...?
Yeah.
But Mr. Sein never said anything to me about it!
...Well,
Personally, I want to get a few things straight with you anyway...

GRIP...
...So this is as good an opportunity as any.
Now,
Come here...
Wai-
Just wait a minute!
BUMP
Oh ...!
CLUNK...
Oh, No...
...And the paint hasn't dried yet.
I hope it's okay.
By the way, that portrait...
...It caught my eyes, so I've been looking at it.

Why is that any of your business?
Just what kind of painting did he commission from you?
Oh...
If you don't want to tell me, that's fine.
I just thought I might be able to satisfy your curiosity.
PUFF
...He...asked me to "draw his true face"...
He didn't seem to like any of my attempts at first...
...But recently...
Oh?
Well, of course he wouldn't.
What...?

You haven't...
アイツの『本当の顔』
...even seen his "true face" yet, have you?
君――…見たことないだろう
This painting isn't anything like him, not even close.
ゴト…
His "true face"...?
What does it mean...?!

What his true form looks like?
Want to know...
I know it well.
.....!
.....I-
-I don't want to hear it from you!
Ho-Hoh...
"Jealousy", is it? How cute.
BLUSH!

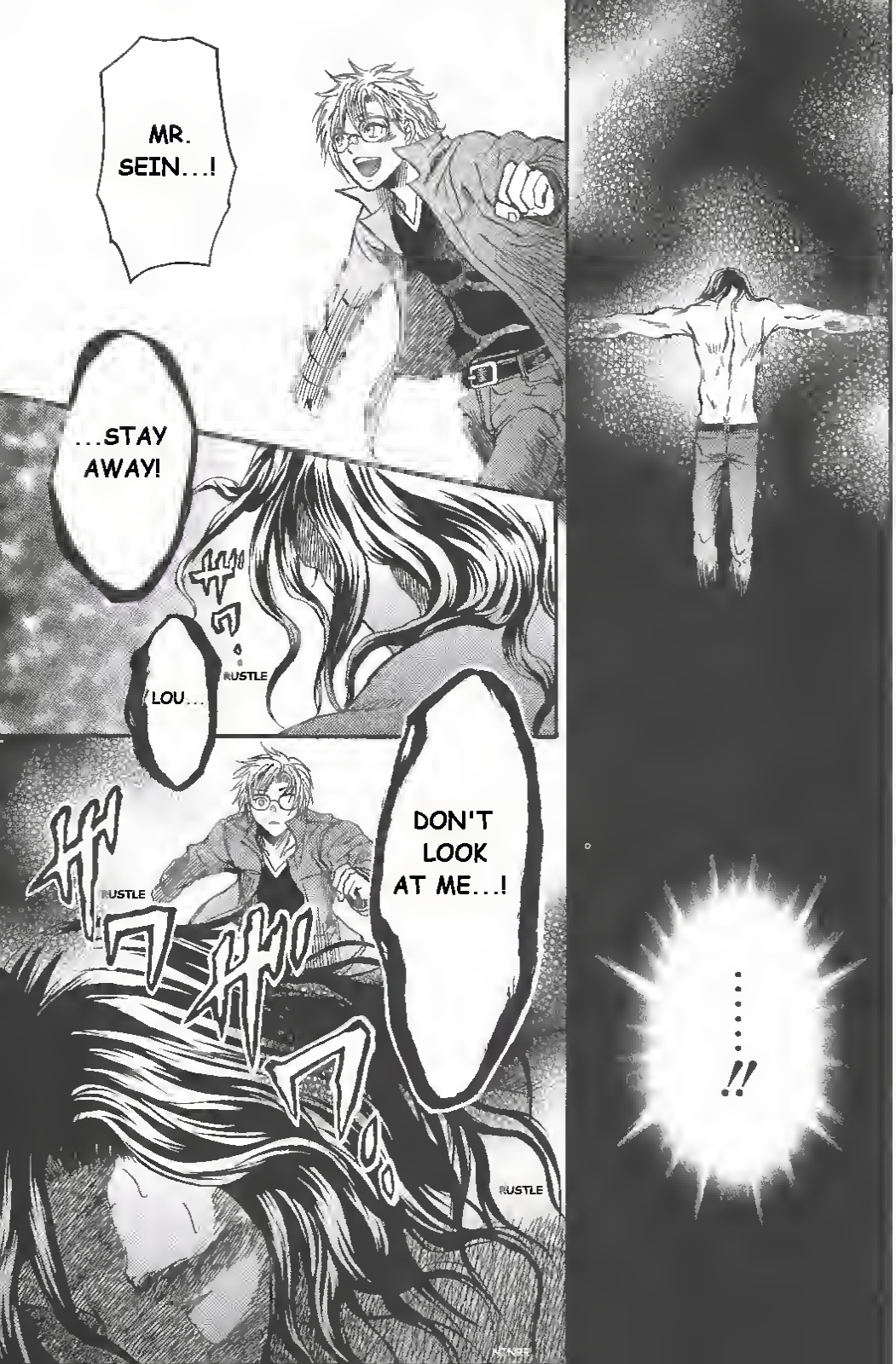
Hold on.
I have a letter addressed to you.
ダッ!!
DASH
……ッ!
!
!!
——ルゥ Lou,
It is dangerous to be here
ここにいると危険だ
アダムの言うことを聞いて
彼のところで暫く暮らしてくれ
——必ず迎えに行く…
Listen to Adam, and stay at his place for a while. I promise I will come get you...

...SO?
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
.....
IT SAYS, I PROMISE "I WILL COME GET YOU"...
WHAT? IS THAT ALL?
HOW BORING.
え??
HUH?
WHY...
WHY DOES HE NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING?
I'LL STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR MR. SEIN TO RETURN.
PLEASE LEAVE FOR TODAY.

GRAP
SEIN ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU.
HEY, HEY!
DON'T BE SO DIFFICULT!
STUFF
LET GO!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!!
SLAP
...I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

TUG...
!!
YANK
SORRY ABOUT THIS...
THUD
OH...
SWOOON...

BUT WHEN SEIN GIVES ME A REQUEST...
...I DO MY UTMOST TO GRANT IT.
—ザインさん—
MR. SEIN...
MR. SEIN...
どこに…
WHERE ARE YOU...?


MR. SEIN...!
...STAY AWAY!
RUSTLE
LOU...
RUSTLE
DON'T LOOK AT ME...!
RUSTLE
.....!!

GRRRR.
LOU...
CRACKLE
SNAP.
...AH...
...LOU ...!
AHH...
LOU!!!

...LOU!!!
AH ...!
HEY...
WE'VE ARRIVED AT MY HOUSE.
A DREAM...?
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT AND WALK FROM HERE.
HUH...?
DUUUNNNN!
Y-
YOUR HOUSE ...?
TH-THIS PLACE...?!

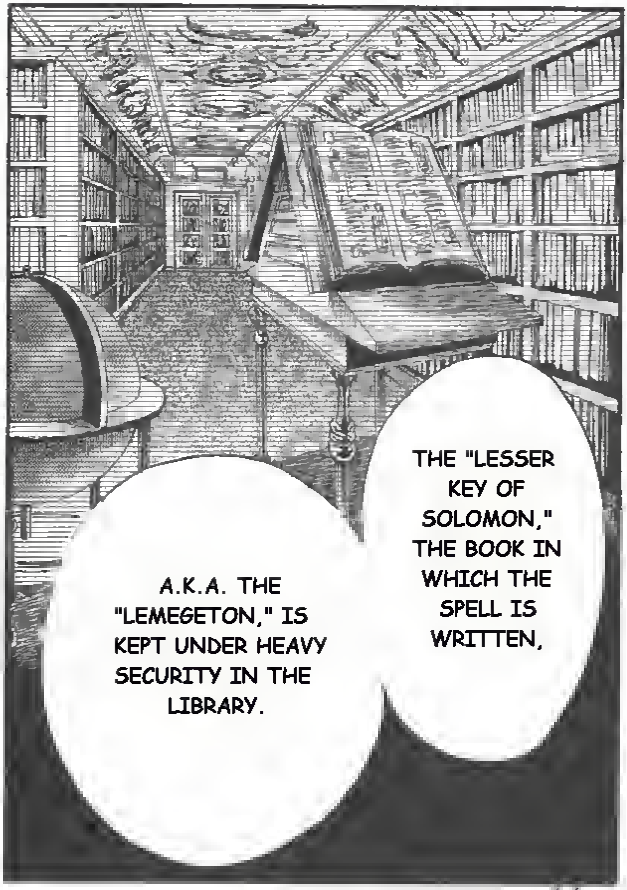
MR. ADAM!!!
W-...
WAIT...
GAPE...
WELL,
IT'S ACTUALLY JUST A PLACE FOR MAINTAINING THE WINERY, SO IT'S RATHER SMALL, BUT...
...MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
TROMP
TROMP
HAAAA?
CLINK
OH, LOU?
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, TALK TO HIM.

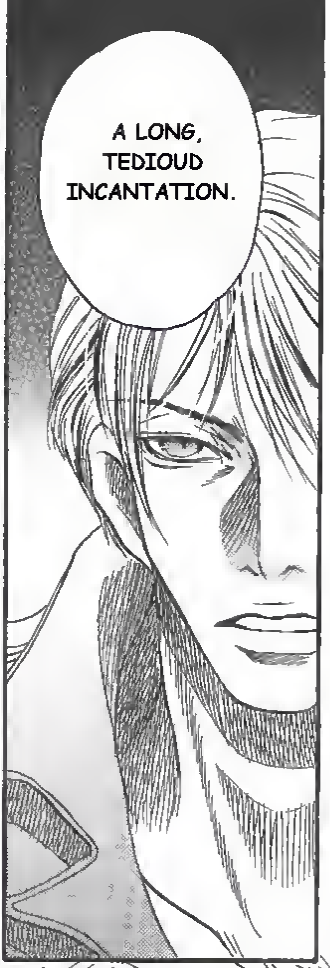
SMILE...
HE'S MY BUTLER. HE'S IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING HERE.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I MAY ASSIST YOU, MR. LOU.
YOU SURE WERE PUSHY ABOUT BRINGING ME HERE.
I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE.
IF YOU HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE, HAVE HIM BRING THE CAR AROUND.
"PERSONALLY I WANT TO GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT WITH YOU ANYWAY..."
THEN WHY DID HE GO THROUGH SUCH TROUBLE TO BRING ME HERE?
SO, HE DOESN'T MEAN TO KEEP ME LOCKED UP.

AH...
SO WHAT THESE THINGS THAT YOU WANTED TO STRAIGHTEN OUT WITH ME?
YOU MAY GO NOW.
YES, SIR
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE MR LOU

AS I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU...
...SEIN AND I HAVE A "CONTRACT."
HA...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE CAN'T BE A "DUAL CONTRACT."
IN THE BEGINNING, MR. SEIN AND I WERE MERELY "PATRON" AND "HIRED ARTIST", BUT...
...NOW WE'RE...
"CON-TRACT" ---
A DUAL CONTRACT...?

WE'RE MORE THAN THAT.
UM...
I'M NOT... REALLY LOOKING TO HAVE A "CONTRACT" WITH MR. SEIN...
NOW, NOW, JUST HOLD ON.
YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT A "CONTRACT" WITH A VAMPIRE ENTAILS, DO YOU?
HUH..? WELL...
ISN'T IT JUST A BUSINESS CONTRACT...?
HAVE A SEAT.
A "CONTRACT" IS A KIND OF SPELL.
ONLY THE VINNYS,
IN OTHER WORDS, MY FAMILY, HAVE POSSESSED AND PASSED DOWN THIS KNOWLEDGE FOR ENERATIONS.
A SPELL...


A.K.A. THE "LEMEGETON," IS KEPT UNDER HEAVY SECURITY IN THE LIBRARY.
THE "LESSER KEY OF SOLOMON," THE BOOK IN WHICH THE SPELL IS WRITTEN,


A LONG, TEDIOUD INCANTATION.

WHY...
...ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
WHY IS HE SHARING THE SECRET?

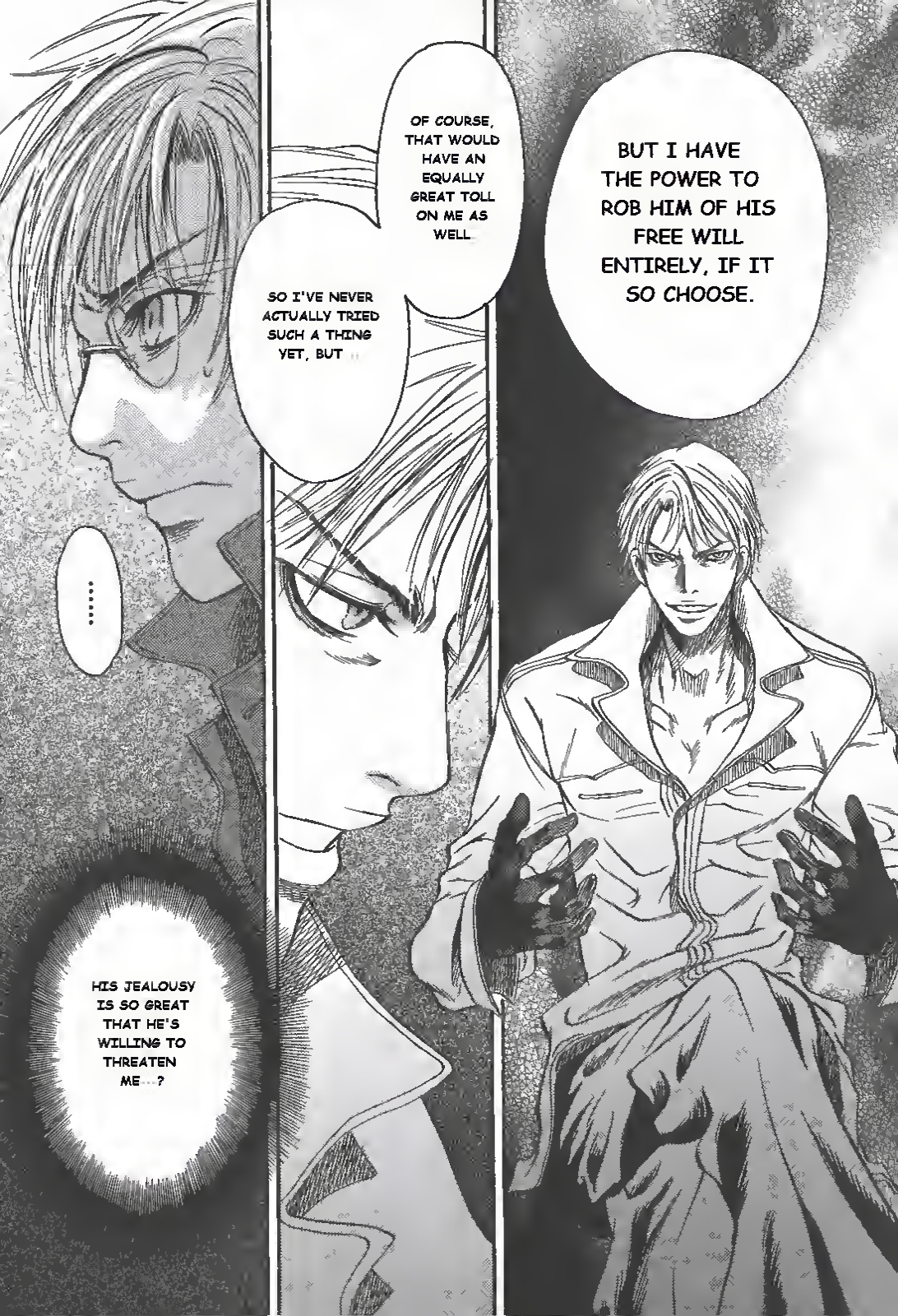
I WANT US TO BE ON THE SAME GROUNDS, SO I'M SHARING THIS WITH YOU.
I DON'T LIKE AN UNFAIR FIGHT.
LOU...
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SEIN, AREN'T YOU?
!
BUT YOU SEE, HE'S BEEN MINE FOR SOME 30 YEARS
...THAT'S THE PLEASURE I GET OUT OF IT.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEELING.
IT'S LIKE...HAVING A BEAST UNDER ONE'S CONTROL...
FROM THE TIME I FIRST SAW HIM, I DESIRED HIS SUBSERVIENCE

I...
...HAVE NO SUCH FEELINGS.
THE PLEASURE OF TAMING A WILD BEAST?!
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU AND I ARE RIVALS IN LOVE
...REGARDSLESS OF HOW YOU FEEL...
IN ANY CASE
R-...?
RIVALS IN LOVE ?!
DECLARATION OF WAR

AND SO...
HERE'S MY IDEA COMES IN. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE GAME.
AFTER THE BOTH OF US ARE EQUALLY UNDER "CONTRACT" WITH SEIN..
...WE'LL SEE WHICH ONE OF US HE CHOOSES
WHAT...?!
BUT IT'S UNFAIR TO TEST MR. SEIN LIKE THAT!
THEN...
...YOU'LL HAVE NO COMPLAINTS IF I TAKE HIM BY FORCE?
!!

LISTEN TO ME!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUSLY BINDING A "CONTRACT" IS.
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M ALLOWING HIM THE FREEDOM TO DO AS HE LIKES.


BUT I HAVE THE POWER TO ROB HIM OF HIS FREE WILL ENTIRELY, IF IT SO CHOOSE.
OF COURSE, THAT WOULD HAVE AN EQUALLY GREAT TOLL ON ME AS WELL.
SO I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TRIED SUCH A THING YET, BUT...
.....
HIS JEALOUSY IS SO GREAT THAT HE'S WILLING TO THREATEN ME...?

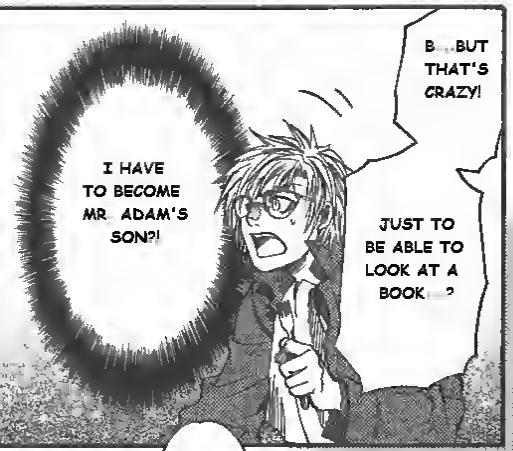
BUT THIS MAN ...IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING SUCH A THREAT.
GRIP
HOW ABOUT IT?
I UNDERSTAND.
GOOD.
LET'S HAVE DINNER NOW.

IN THE "LEMEGETON"...
...ARE WRITTEN MANY FORMULAE FOR CONTROLLING AND DEALING WITH ALL MANER OF MONSTER AND DEMONS-VAMPIRES INCLUDED.
TRANSCRIBED BY OCCULTISTS, PHYSICIANS, AND SCHOLARS, TREATURED BY NOBILITY, THE TOME WAS WIDELY CIRCULATED DURING 17TH CENTURY.

BUT, AS SO OPEN WITH BOOKS ABUNDANTLY COPIED, THE ORIGINAL BECAME LOST...OR SO IT SAID.
THEN...
...THE REAL BOOK NO LONGER EXISTS?
AH! THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

ONLY MEMBER OF THE VINNY FAMILY ARE ALLOWED ENTRANCE TO THE LIBRARY...
...AND IF THE BOOK WERE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISSES, IT'S POWER WOULD BE RENDERED USELESS.
...SITS THE ACTUAL, BONA FIDE, ORIGINAL TEXT
IN OUR LIBRARY...
ムカムカ〜ン。。。
SPRR
...THEN
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO...?
WHAT THE-?! SO, THAT MEANS I COULD NEVER USE IT ANYWAY?!
.....
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...

KOFF...
ゲホゲホ
AS LONG AS YOU'RE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A MEMBER OF THE VINNY FAMILY, THERE IS NO PROBLEM.
KOFF...


B...BUT THAT'S CRAZY!
I HAVE TO BECOME MR. ADAM'S SON?!
JUST TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT A BOOK...?

OH...
...IT'S NOTHING DIFFICULT

...IS TO LET ME ADOPT YOU.
CHOKE!
!?

ALL WE NEED IS FOR THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE VINNY FAMILY, IN OTHER WORDS, MY OLDER BROTHER, TO FORMALLY ACCEPT YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.
HOW-EVER...
AT THE MOMENT, MY BROTHER IS AWAY ON A TRIP I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM ONCE HE'S RETURNED
MR. LOU?
YOUR BEDROOM HAS BEEN PREPARED.
WOW
キラ
SPARKLE
キラ
WHAT A CRAZY TURN OF EVENTS...
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU REQUIRE?
NO...
...THANK YOU.
THUNK
WELL, THEN,
PLEASANT DREAMS

BINDING MR. SEIN TO A CONTRACT USING A SPELL...
...I FEEL LIKE I'D BE BETRAYING HIM...
...胸が苦しい
AND MY HEART FEELS HEAVY...
...BUT I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND LET MR. ADAM CONTROL HIM...
"I PROMISE I WILL COME GET YOU"
——「必ず迎えに行く」

MR. SEIN...
...WHERE COULD HE BE?
I WANT TO SEE HIM...
KCHAK...

CREAK...
TAP
TAP

RUSTLE
SKREEK...
WHOOSH!
RUSTLE
SCREECH!
...!
...MR. LOU?
MR. LOU!
MM...

HURRY, OPEN THIS!
.....?
.....!!
THIS SEAL...
FROM MR. SEIN?!
CRINKLE...
.....

——アダムを信じるな
DO NOT TRUST ADAM
Ne croie pas Adam.
!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CRINKLE...
IN HIS FIRST LETTER, HE TOLD ME TO LISTEN TO MR. ADAM...
THE SAME HAND-WRITING ...
...WHICH LETTER AM I SUPPOSED TO TRUST...
MR. LOU--
I'M SECRETLY IN LEAGUE WITH SEIN

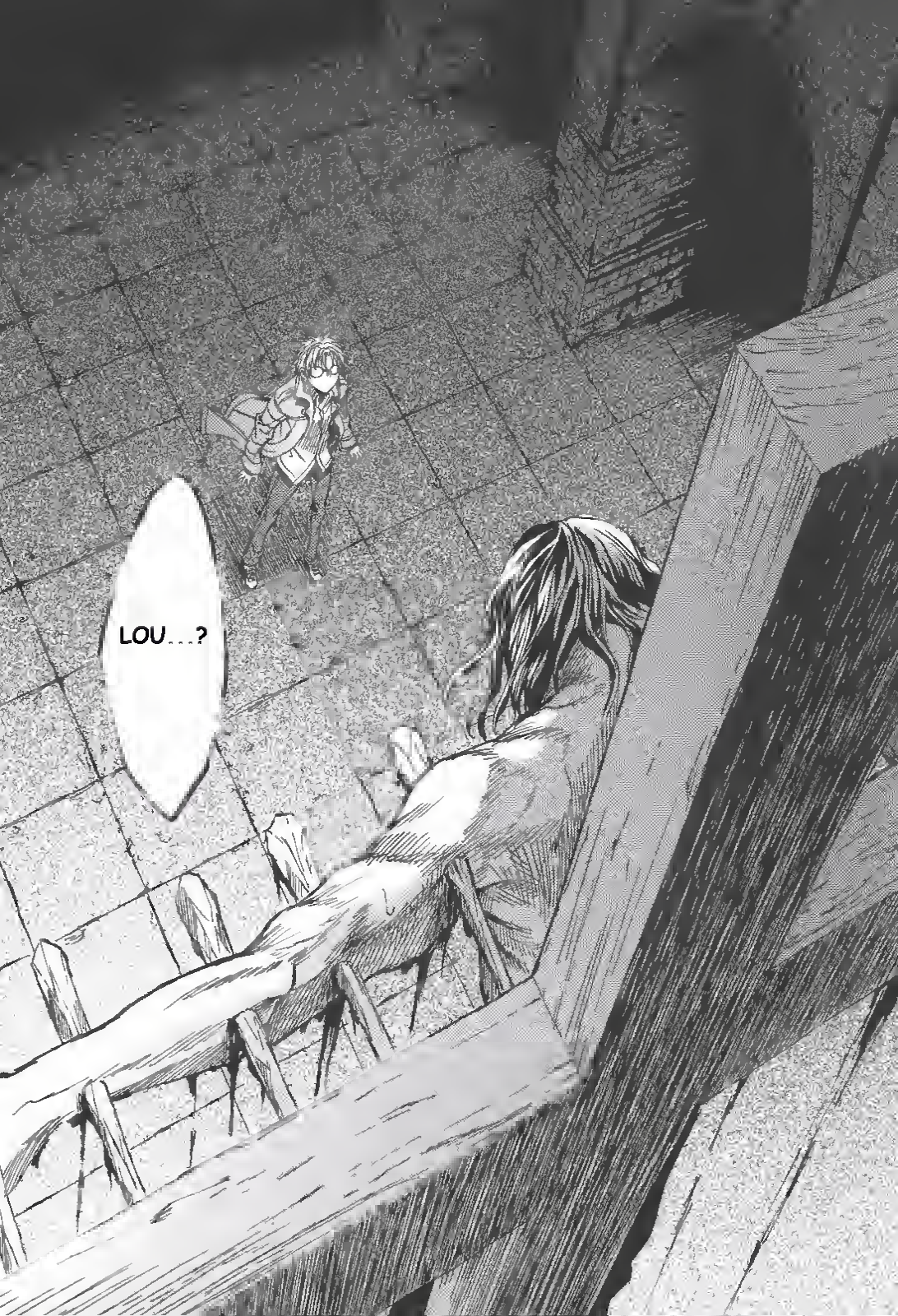
I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO RESCUE YOU.
YOU MUST HURRY AND GET DRESSED!
I WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM.
I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE MR. SEIN...?!
BUT THESE TWO DIFFERENT LETTERS,
WHAT DO THEY MEAN?
VROOOM...
ADAM DECEIVED YOU.
WHAT ...?!

"DECEIVED"...?
BUT...
...YOU NEED WORRY NO LONGER.
THAT'S RIGHT.
ABOUT THE VAMPIRE'S CONTRACT?
OR SIMPLY EVERYTHING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...? NO, THAT COULDN'T BE...
EVERYTHING WILL BE MADE CLEAR ONCE I SEE MR. SEIN AGAIN.

MR. SEIN...!
B 128TRX

HE'S IN THERE...?

MR. SEIN...!
DASH!
MR. SEIN!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
U-
UHH...


LOU...?

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE...?
W-...
"WHY"...? BUT DIDN'T YOU-?
CLAK

I GOT BORED WAITING FOR YOU TO WEAKEN...
WHIP
...SO I DECIDED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
STOP!
VERLOREN!!!

HA! HA! HA!
I WON'T KILL HIM JUST YET.
OTHERWISE, THERE WOULD'VE BEEN NO POINT IN BRINGING HIM HERE UNHARMED.
...c...!
AH... THOSE EYES!
CREAK...
GRRH...!
THEY REMIND ME OF 60 YEARS AGO...

CLAUDE... MY GRANDFATHER?!
...CLAUDE ABANDONED YOU
OF COURSE, BACK THEN...
RUSTLE...
MR. SEIN'S VOICE...!
"CLAUDE...I LOVE YOU..."
THEN THOSE LETTERS-
TH-...
...HE'S EVEN TAKING ON MR. SEIN'S LIKENESS!
ADAM WAS RICKED QUITE EASILY.
I SEE HIM HAS A WEAK SPOT WHERE YOU ARE CONCERNED

YES!
I WROTE THEM BOTH.
BUTLER!
HEY!
BUTLER!!!

?
THE DOOR IS OPEN-
PARDON ME...
IS HE TENDING TO LOU?
OH WELL...
!!
MY BUTLER WOULD NEVER TAKE THE CAR OUT WITHOUT TELLING ME...
...STRONG...

IT CAN'T BE...!
HAS LOU BEEN ABDUCTED?!
DAMMIT!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
WHY...
...ARE YOU DOING THIS?

YOU SEE, HE AND I HAVE A DEEP, DEEP CONNECTION
...WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR AN ETERNITY.
BUT I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO CUT SUCH TIES...
HOW MANY TIME DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
HAH..

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU...
...OR OF DYING, EITHER
AND THAT...
...IS MY REVENGE AGAINST YOU...!

HEH...
DON'T BE SO COLD.
CALL ME "BIG BROTHER."
BIG BROTHER?!
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "REVENGE"...?
YOU FOOL!
YOU CALL LIVING IN SUCH A WEAKENED STATE "REVENGE"?
YES!
I'LL LIVE ON FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THIS FORM!

HA!
I WILL NEVER BECOME LIKE YOU.
I WONDER HOW LONG YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPOUT SUCH WORDS.
!
...NOW...
...SHALL WE RESUME THE RITUAL, LITTLE BROTHER...?

YANK!
"LOU"...
GHGH...
...ッ
SUCH STRENGTH...! I CAN'T EVEN SPEAK...!
N...NO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE USED AS THIS MAN'S PLAYING...!
STOP!!!
"I LOVE YOU..."

WHY SHOULD I?
IT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING TO HIM, ISN'T IT?
BUT...
...I WON'T BE QUITE AS GENTLE.
HAH
FOR ME, SOMETHING MORE VIOLENTE-
DRIP
DRIP
GRRH...
CREAK.
G...!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL ACT AS YOUR MIRROR IMAGE.

ZWOOSH
LOU!!!
CREAK!

CRAK!
RAAAARRGH!

VERLOREN!!!
LUNGE
WHSH!
!!
THUD

WHUMP
UH...
.....

NGH ...!
GAH ...!
HA...
I...IT CAN'T BE...!